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I have assumed that the ventral nerve cords of annelids are homologous with the medullary canal, a view that is now generally accepted by embryologists. Balfour (Works I., 393, and Comp. Embryol., II., 311) has suggested a more complicated relation in his hypothesis that the lateral nerve trunks which are known in many of the lower worms (*e. g.*, nemerteans) have fused on the ventral side, in annelids on the dorsal side, of the body in the vermean ancestors of vertebrates. In favor of this ingenious surmise no evidence has since been found. Hubrecht denies the homology of the annelidan nerve chain and the vertebrate medulla; he considers ⁴ that the more primitive condition is represented by certain nemertean worms, which, besides two main lateral nerves, have a small longitudinal median nerve; the lateral nerves gave rise to the nerve chain of annelids by their fusion, the median nerve to the medulla of the ancestors of vertebrates. As no intermediate forms, either adult types or embryonic stages, are known to represent any phase of this double metamorphosis, I cannot admit that Hubrecht's bold speculation invalidates what seems to me the well established homology between annelids and vertebrates.—CHARLES SEDGEWICK MINOT.

ARCHÆOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY.

The Recent Accessions to the Museum of the Peabody Academy of Science of Salem, Mass.—The accessions to the Museum of the Peabody Academy of Science, in East India Marine Hall, have, from time to time, been noticed in these columns. In no single year since the formation of this institution have these accessions been so numerous or of so valuable a character. Prof. Edward S. Morse, as is well known, was absent for several months in Japan and the east, for the purposes of study and forming collections, one of his chief objects being to obtain for our museum a characteristic and complete collection to illustrate the ethnology of Japan.

The museum previously contained but few specimens from this country, although some of these few were very valuable, while China, India, Africa, and the South Sea Islands, were fully represented. Our mercantile relations with Japan were insignificant during the time of Salem's commercial period, the time when the East India collection was formed, and indeed it is only since the opening of that country to

⁴ A. A. W. Hubrecht. The Relation of the Nemertea to the Vertebrata. *Quart. Jour. Micros. Sci., N. S.*, XXVII., 605-644, Pl. XLII.
Am. Nat.—November,—6.

commerce, after 1854, that it has been made possible to obtain specimens in any considerable numbers. And now a serious danger arises. The sudden influx of foreigners into Japan, and the demands of trade, have changed the character of manufactures, and the customs of the people brought in contact with the foreigners, rendering it more difficult year by year to obtain genuine Japanese articles uncontaminated by foreign influences. The quality of the majority of the exported lacquered ware has vastly deteriorated, the exported porcelain has succumbed to the demands of foreign taste; the screens, fans, lanterns, cloths, and papers which come to us cease to fairly illustrate the best art and forms, and mislead rather than instruct us as to the exquisite tastes of these interesting and refined people.

It is therefore peculiarly fortunate that in Salem, Mass., where already exists one of the finest ethnological collections in the world, there should be added, from Japan, so complete a collection as that recently placed on exhibition. Formed by one having exceptional relations with the Japanese in their inside life, both as friend and instructor, it has been made possible to gather a cabinet at once pure as regards the art and customs of the people, and complete in illustrating all the branches properly included in ethnology.

The catalogue of Japanese accessions enumerates 691 specimens. These have been arranged, temporarily, in one of the new long cases on the eastern side of the hall, and occupy some fifty feet of glass front. The most conspicuous objects are the life-sized figures: a warrior in full armor as used before the late revolution and the introduction of European methods and arms; the gentleman and wife with their two children, a boy and a girl; and the farmer and wife, the latter bearing an infant characteristically tied upon her back. These models were all made for the museum, and are the best ever brought to this country. Looking at them, the visitor is at once struck by what we should term the undersize of the Japanese, and we can readily see how a man of our ordinary height can overlook a Japanese crowd without difficulty, as is often stated to be done.

One section contains a collection of swords and blades, 37 in number, many of great beauty and all of fine workmanship, together with numerous knives and sword guards, the latter objects being greatly valued in Japan for their exquisite finish and design, often bringing large prices at special sales. All of these were presented to the museum by Mr. Machida, a noted sword merchant of Tokio, who says in his letter to Mr. Morse, "I present the swords and implements of war formerly used in Japan, to the museum, thinking that they may do

some good for the purposes of scientific inquiries." Many of these swords and knives are 100 years old, and some are from 200 to 300 years.

The Tokio Educational Museum, in exchange for a collection of corals forwarded by the Academy last year, contributed 13 sets of tools (164 specimens), together with pictures illustrating the different trades and professions. They include among others those of the carpenter, cooper, mason, jeweler, turner, lacquerer, lantern-maker, potter, ivory carver, and gardener. The fisherman's nets and lines and the insect collector's outfit are also included. The collection contains garments of coarse and those of finer quality, shoes, hats, hair ornaments and combs, models of the kitchen, tea room, reception room, and shrine; of a fire engine, which by the way is carried about by two men in the manner of a hand barrow, of vessels and firemen's badges. Articles of domestic use include tea cups and sake cups, trays, bowls, baskets, bottles, tea-pots, spoons, moulds, barber's case, smoking apparatus, brushes, dishes, etc. Amusements are illustrated by games, cards, toys, dolls and kites, and these are followed by musical instruments of various sorts, such as harps, guitars, flutes and drums.

It is useless to go into farther details, as the collection is now on public exhibition, and may be seen by all who are able to visit the museum. Many of the specimens were given by Japanese friends of Mr. Morse, including even servants, who seemed to fully understand the purpose in forming the collection, and the value of even the commonest object so long as it illustrated the people and their ways. Among other donors the name of Dr. W. S. Bigelow should not be omitted, as the catalogue amply testifies.

In addition to the collection from Japan, a temporary arrangement has also been made, in a case on the western side of the hall, of the objects collected in China, Anam, and Singapore, and those obtained from Korea, Yesso, and Manila. Altogether these collections occupy some thirty feet of case room, and include many rare and interesting articles. There are models of boats from China, and implements, clothing, and articles of domestic use from all of the above countries. The objects from Korea and those from Yesso, it should be remembered, small in number though they may appear, form a larger representation from these countries than has heretofore been obtained by any museum in this vicinity, and besides, many of the articles are of great rarity. One entire section of this case contains a special collection of Chinese implements, ornaments, and utensils, from William Dolan, Esq., of Hong Kong.

The rapid increase of the collections in the museum indicates that at no distant day farther space will be required to exhibit properly even such specimens as can in no way be placed in study collections to be kept in storage cabinets. It would be far better of course to have a special room for the natural history collections, leaving to East India Marine Hall the ethnological collections, so full of interest, and which form, together with the fine building that contains them, a most fitting monument of Salem's commercial period. In this hall, and forming part of this collection, is the proper place for many articles which even now may be found in the houses, in the attics and sheds perhaps, of this neighborhood. These articles are of themselves of little value, and of no use where they are, but placed in the museum they would each contribute their share towards making the finest American ethnological cabinet, and serve to interest and instruct generations of Salemites to come. Our citizens ought to think of this and see that all such objects are added to the museum, an institution we cannot feel too proud to own, and one that is prepared more fully than ever to care for and properly preserve these relics in the future as it has done for eighty years in the past.—*The Salem Register*.

ENTOMOLOGY.

Preliminary Catalogue of and Notes on Nebraska Butterflies.—This list includes species of *Lepidoptera Rhopalocera*, or, properly speaking, diurnal butterflies. It includes only specimens collected by the writer and in the State Normal School collection, excepting where it is otherwise stated. Some few species have been omitted in order to await further study.

The names of localities where we have made collections is given by counties, those mentioned as from Dodge county being made mostly by Mr. E. A. Dodge, of Glencoe. Mr. Dodge has collected in Nebraska during the last fifteen years, and perhaps has the largest and finest collection of butterflies within the State. His list and notes, so far as we are aware, have not been published.

The notes on the dates of appearance of different species were made largely during the spring of 1889,—a spring beginning somewhat earlier than usual,—and are given mostly for Peru, Nemaha county, on the Missouri River.